



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; National Science Foundation (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Pre-Award Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the ***Federal Register***, and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone (703) 292–7556; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–

8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: National Science Foundation (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Pre-Award Information Collection.

OMB Control No.: 3145-New.

Abstract: The NSF SBIR/STTR programs focus on transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial potential and/or societal benefit. Unlike fundamental or basic research activities that focus on scientific and engineering discoveries, the NSF SBIR/STTR programs support the creation of opportunities to move fundamental science and engineering out of the lab and into the market at scale, through startups and small businesses representing deep technology ventures.

The NSF SBIR/STTR programs have two phases: Phase I and Phase II. Phase I is a 6-12 month experimental or theoretical investigation that allows the awardees to determine the scientific and technical feasibility, as well as the commercial merit of the idea or concept. Phase II further develops the proposed concept, with a goal of working toward the commercial launch of the new product, process, or service being developed.

The NSF SBIR/STTR programs request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of this clearance that will allow the programs to collect information from a selected group of applicants—those that have been reviewed by independent experts and that NSF Program Directors are considering recommending for funding—for the purpose of making a funding decision. This

information includes, but is not exclusive to, a list of company officers and the corresponding ownership status of each company officer within the startup, whether the startup is associated or affiliated with other companies, whether there exist any relationships (personal, financial, and/or professional) between project personnel, and the locations of all the facilities where significant research will be performed for the proposed project. Such data will enable the NSF Program Directors to evaluate a given company's business structure, ascertain the level of commitment of the Principal Investigator (PI) and co-PIs to the startup venture, and identify conflicts of interests (if any), as part of the due diligence process that the programs undertake to verify there are no fraudulent or inappropriate business practices prior to recommending the small business for an award.

Following standard OMB requirements, NSF will request OMB approval in advance and provide OMB with a copy of the form containing these questions. Data collected will be used strictly for due-diligence, auditing, and/or legal purposes, and are needed for effective pre-award management, administration, and/or program monitoring. The applicants, if being considered for award, will only be asked to submit a signed form containing their responses to the questions once for each NSF SBIR/STTR proposal (Phase I and II, if applicable). The data collection burden to the selected applicants will be limited to no more than 10 minutes of the respondents' time in each instance. Summaries of the collected data are also being used to respond to queries from Congress, the Small Business Administration, the public, NSF's external merit reviewers who serve as advisors, including Committees of Visitors, NSF's Office of the Inspector General, and other pertinent stakeholders.

Respondents: PIs listed on the NSF SBIR/STTR proposals.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 750.

Frequency: Once.

Average Time: 0.167 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 126 hours per year.

Comments: Comments regarding (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the NSF, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the NSF's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, use, and clarity of the information on respondents; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to the points of contact in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Copies of the submission may be obtained by calling 703-292-7556. NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: September 30, 2022.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer,

National Science Foundation.

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